



This e-newsletter offers brief updates on CEED people, projects, and events.

About CEED

Our Administrator, **Becky Johnston**, is leaving CEED after five years of service. We wish her the best of luck in her new position in the School of Public Health!

Karen Cadigan, Director of Outreach and Policy, and **Kristen Missall** (former CEEDling, current faculty member at the University of Kentucky) recently published a paper, "Measuring expressive language growth in young children with autism spectrum disorders," in *Topics in Early Childhood Special Education*.

Marti Erickson, Director of Harris Programs, kicked off Target Corporation's volunteer campaign with Read Across America by speaking to employees at Target Corporate offices on March 3 on "Strong Start, Bright Future: Launching Children on the Path to Reading Success." She also spoke at the luncheon of the Women's Leadership Group for the Twin Cities United Way on "The Social-Emotional Underpinnings of School Readiness: What Parents Bring, What Parents Need." Finally, Marti is featured in an article in the March, 2008 issue of *Monitor on Psychology*, a publication of APA: "Getting Back to the Great Outdoors" (<http://www.apa.org/monitor/2008/03/outdoors.html>).

Scott McConnell, Director of Community Engagement, had a letter to the editor published in the *Star Tribune*. You can read it at <http://www.startribune.com/opinion/letters/15454086.html>.

Amy Susman-Stillman, Director of Applied Research and Training, testified before the MN House Early Learning Finance Committee on Tuesday, 2/26/08 about the DHS Family, Friend and Neighbor Grant Program, which was established last year by the state Legislature. CEED was written into the legislation as the evaluators of the grant program, and she presented the work to-date on the evaluation.

Christopher Watson, Director of Professional Development, is head of the Student Activities Committee for the International DEC Conference that will take place in Minneapolis in October, 2008. For a copy of the conference flyer, see http://cehd.umn.edu/ceed/DEC2008_Flier_FINAL.pdf.

Five Hundred Under 5 has hired two new Grad Research Assistants, **Brooke Rafdal** and **Sumaiya Mamdani**. Brooke is a doctoral student in Educational Psychology who has worked at CEED for the past 18 months, and Sumaiya is in the Maternal and Child Health program in the School of Public Health. Both bring a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to community-based research, and are starting to forge partnerships with our colleagues at Way to Grow and in the Five Hundred under 5 community!

Projects

Five Hundred under Five (Fhu5) is a new, collaborative, early childhood initiative on the northside of Minneapolis. Our goal is that children living within the two project geographical focus areas will be developmentally, socially, and academically ready for kindergarten. The initiative is led jointly by the Center for Early Education and Development of the University of Minnesota (CEED), Way to Grow, the Strategic Initiatives and Community Engagement Department of Hennepin County (SICED), the Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) and Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board (YCB). Fhu5 is a child-focused, place-based approach to improving school readiness and thereby helping to reduce educational disparities. We know that we will need to also address the many factors that can impede or support school readiness, including parental relationships, stable housing, health and access to health care, environmental factors, neighborhood and community "connectedness", and more. The initiative has three distinct, yet interrelated components – community engagement, service coordination and enhancement, and research and documentation.

CEED received a grant from the Minnesota Department of Education for the "Early Childhood Higher Education Consortium Professional Development Opportunities" project. **Christopher Watson** is the Principal Investigator. The two-year grant of \$170,000 will support the annual **Minnesota Early Intervention Summer Institute** held at St. John's University, as well as additional professional development activities for early childhood special education personnel and others who serve infants and young children.

Publications

CEED has a new brochure on our Professional Development opportunities (online courses and in-person trainings). This brochure is available in hard copy for anyone who would like to spread the word about CEED's offerings. Contact Sara at 612-625-2252 or sarazet@umn.edu for copies.

Courses and Trainings

Monthly Reflective Practice Groups for Supervisors will be offered on the third Thursday of each month starting March 20, 2008. To encourage ongoing participation, we are offering registrations of 6 sessions (\$180) or 12 sessions (\$300). For more information and to download the registration form, visit <http://cehd.umn.edu/ceed/events/mrpg/mrpgsupervisors.htm>.

Enrollment in CEED's many online classes is ongoing—course sessions are held three times per year. The 2008 online course schedule is available at <http://cehd.umn.edu/ceed/coursesandtrainings/2008OnlineCoursesFlyer.pdf>. Read more about courses at <http://cehd.umn.edu/ceed/coursesandtrainings/default.html#courses>.

Events

CEED's annual McEvoy Lecture featuring a panel of legislators and policymakers takes place next week, and there's still time to register! Visit <http://cehd.umn.edu/ceed/events/mmlectureseries/default.html> for more information and to register online.

The annual Harris Forum is scheduled for May 22, 2008 and will take place in the Theater at Coffman Union. Watch this space for more information as it becomes available.

Partners and Links

Please visit the CEED website, <http://cehd.umn.edu/ceed>, for ongoing listings of job opportunities with partnering organizations and individuals.

CEED Sampler is compiled and distributed by the Center for Early Education and Development at the University of Minnesota (<http://education.umn.edu/ceed/>). Editor: Sara Zettervall (sarazet@umn.edu, 612-625-2252).

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